The Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV) published a 2016 report on domestic violence homicides in Rhode Island. This fact sheet highlights some of the key findings.

Between 2006 and 2015, 54 people lost their lives to domestic violence homicides.

- Of the 41 perpetrators of intimate partner homicides, 37 (90%) were men and four (10%) were women.
- Of the 45 victims killed in intimate partner homicides, 34 (76%) were female intimate partners of a male perpetrator.

The relationship of the victim to the perpetrator in the 54 total incidents were as follows:

- Intimate partner or spouse: 72%
- Family member: 13%
- Bystander: 11%
- Unrelated cohabitant: 4%

About half of the perpetrators (20, or 49%) who committed intimate partner homicides had a previous domestic violence criminal history.

- 14 (70%) of these criminally-involved perpetrators had previously been convicted or had pleaded nolo contendere in at least one domestic violence case.

Though a similar number of homicide incidents involved stabbing as those that involved firearms, considerably more victims were killed with firearms (19 victims, or 42%) than by stabbing (14 victims, or 31%).

- 100% of the bystanders who were killed in intimate partner homicides were killed with firearms.
- 100% of the incidents involving multiple homicide victims were committed with firearms.

There is growing evidence that, in order to prevent domestic violence homicides, it is effective to screen domestic violence cases for homicide risk factors with validated assessment tools and then provide those cases assessed as “high risk” with increased levels of services and supervision.

- Using this approach, Maryland reduced its domestic violence homicide rate by 34% in the first five years of the program. A similar program in Massachusetts intervened in 106 high risk cases between 2005 and 2013 and had no domestic violence homicides during that period.


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